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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEALS

FM Gul to Annan: Kirkuk like a time bomb - Aksam  
Armitage: Peshmerge will join Iraqi army - Aksam  
First round between Bush, Kerry tomorrow - Sabah  
Turkish trucker killed in Iraq - Milliyet  
56 percent of French oppose Turkey's EU membership -  
Hurriyet

##### OPINION MAKERS

Ankara tension with EU over EU-OIC summit - Cumhuriyet  
Regional Iraq conference to be held in Egypt in November -  
Zaman  
Jordan King: Iraqi elections will increase insurgency -  
Radikal  
US bombs Sadr City, Fallujah - Yeni Safak  
Bush leads Kerry by 6 points - Cumhuriyet  
Washington urges Athens to take US weapons back from Cyprus  
- Zaman  
French don't want Turkey in the EU - Cumhuriyet

#### BRIEFING

FM Gul ends US visit: FM Abdullah Gul warned Tuesday at a  
press conference after meeting UN Secretary General Kofi  
Annan that a new Talafar crisis in northern Iraq would lead  
to a 'catastrophe.' Gul said that coalition forces in Iraq  
should to work hard to win the sympathy of the local people,  
and he voiced Turkey's readiness to back efforts for  
democracy, freedom and stability in Iraq. Gul also  
reiterated Ankara's expectation that the UN take action to  
remove international sanctions on Turkish Cypriots.  
"Hurriyet" claims that Gul rejected a proposal by his  
Armenian counterpart, Vartan Oskanyan, to open the border  
gate between Turkey and Armenia, saying new steps would not  
be taken until a solution is found to the Nagorno-Karabakh  
dispute. Gul returned to Turkey from New York on Wednesday.

Armitage on Kirkuk, Kurds: Mass appeal "Aksam" quotes US  
State Department U/S Richard Armitage as warning that if  
property disputes between northern Iraqi ethnic groups  
intensify to a critical point, Kirkuk might become a crisis  
zone. Armitage noted that some areas have been taken back  
from Arabs to be given to their original Kurdish owners, who  
had been exiled by the regime of Saddam Hussein. 'I don't  
think the Iraqi Kurds are seeking sovereignty,' Armitage  
said. 'I think the Kurds are smart enough not to risk their  
relationship with Turkey.'

Turkish driver killed in Iraq: Another Turkish driver has  
been killed by insurgents in Iraq, bringing the total number  
of killed to 14. Nizamettin Bilir, 46, was delivering fuel  
to US forces in Iraq when the attack occurred near Mosul.  
Turkish truckers have increasingly become the target of  
Iraqi insurgents. Most Turkish hostages taken in Iraq have  
been released after their companies have pledged to end  
operations in Iraq or pay ransom money for their release.  
However, 40,000 drivers continue to travel to Iraq each  
month, according to "Cumhuriyet." The Turkish government  
declined to provide official figures regarding the number of  
missing Turks in Iraq.

DEA joins international narcotics conference: A conference  
on the 'International Initiative Against Smuggling of Drugs  
and Money Laundering,' organized by Turkish Police and the  
US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) was opened Tuesday in  
Istanbul. Turkish and DEA officials stressed the need for a  
more systematic cooperation in the struggle against drug  
smuggling and money laundering. DEA Administrator Karen P.  
Tandy said the DEA has offices in 60 countries, and  
underlined the significance of Turkey as a powerful partner

in the fight against drug trafficking.

Simultaneous sounds bombs explosions in Turkish cities:  
Sound bombs exploded almost simultaneously in front of branches of the British-based HSBC Bank in Istanbul, Izmir, and Adana Tuesday evening. A percussion bomb went off at about the same time in Ankara in the garden of the Turkish-American Association, causing slight damage to the building, the Anatolian news agency (AA) reported. The explosions did not cause any injuries. NTV reported that the Ankara explosion was also targeting HSBC, which has a bank branch located 100 meters from the Turkish American Association. No group claimed immediate responsibility for the blasts.

Upcoming EU-OIC summit: Despite strong objections from Greece and Cyprus, Ankara told EU missions in Turkey that northern Cypriots would join the upcoming forum of EU and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers under the name 'Turkish Cypriot State,' 'Cumhuriyet' reports. Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the meeting will be held as scheduled on October 4-5 in Istanbul. 'Cumhuriyet' expects some EU countries to send lower level participants to the meeting. Cyprus has threatened to boycott the gathering, and has encouraged other EU countries to follow suit.

Human rights symposium in Ankara: 500 human rights activists from around the world will be meeting in Ankara for a 5-day symposium beginning today to discuss new tactics against violations of human rights, 'Milliyet' reports. The 'New Strategies in Human Rights International Symposium' sponsored by Turkey, the US, the UK and the Netherlands will be held from September 29-October 2. General Manager of the 'American Center for the Victims of Torture,' Douglas Johnson, told 'Aksam' that a 'culture of fear' has prevailed in the US following the September 11 attacks. 'Following 9/11, America's leaders have deemed all methods 'permissible' in obtaining intelligence information,' Johnson said, noting that 'such an approach has inflicted substantial damage on US values and laws.'

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq; Turkey-EU

"Tension will grow in Iraq"

Kemal Yavuz warned in the sensational-mass appeal "Aksam" (9/29): "Iraq is on the verge of more tension in the days ahead. Thanks to Ankara's determined stance, the situation in Tal Afar, despite recent incidents, is now quiet. However, the city administration has been transferred to anti-Turkmen groups following the military operation. There is speculation that about 2,500 armed Kurdish militiamen have been placed in the area, taking advantage of the chaotic atmosphere when US forces conducted their operation. If this is the case, an ethnic-based conflict in this area seems imminent. On the other hand, Kirkuk seems to have the most serious potential as an area of conflict. There has been a well-planned and intentional Kurdish migration to Kirkuk over the past year. American military officials also voice concern regarding this issue. . The US is having a very bad experience in Iraq. If the census and general elections do not go as planned, as seems likely, US prestige and influence in the region will be reduced to zero."

"Who is This Murderer?"

Zafer Atay commented in the economic-political "Dunya" (9/29): "His name is Ahmet Haleyle. For now, he is known as Ebu Mus'ab el Zarkawi. Ahmet Fadil Halilyah, Ebu Ahmet, Ebu Muhammet Sakir, and Ebu Suvayd are among the names he uses time to time. Now he is the leader of a terrorist organization. Zarkawi and his team love to kill. There are times when even Islamic theologians rebel against his actions. When any of these religious people criticize his violent actions, such as the beheading of hostages, Zarkawi immediately brands them as enemies or cowards. To defend his terrorist actions, he tells lies and even claims that the prophet Muhammed had given similar orders in the past. He misinterprets the Koran to justify his murders. Recently, he has been holding many Turks as hostages. Let's not allow anyone to claim that Zarkawi is fighting against the enemy to defend his rights. It would be a great insult to real patriots and heroes to regard Zarkawi and his men as 'resisters,' when they really only get pleasure out of killing innocent."

"The Fight Over Turkey in the EU"

Erdal Safak wrote in the mass appeal "Sabah" (9/29): "It seems France is having the most heated debate about Turkey's accession to the EU. A recent opinion poll in the French 'Le Figaro' shows 36 percent popular support for Turkey's EU, with 56 percent opposed. . This anti-Turkish sentiment among the French public has declined slightly from the 61 percent recorded last June. Moreover, the percentage of those who say they might support Turkey's EU accession in the future is 63 -- a good indication of growing pro-Turkish sentiment once the negotiation process moves further. . Turkey will be at the top of the EU's agenda not only during

the upcoming December summit, but also throughout 2005. Turkey should be well aware of the fact that people and politicians in the EU will debate the Turkey issue almost constantly in the days ahead."

EDELMAN